

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4254

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR ECG REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM: NORWAY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND INFORMED ME THAT CABINET AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17 TO DEFER DECISION ON NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN IEP UNTIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 19-20 ECG MEETING AND MEETING BETWEEN FRYDENLUND AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NEW YORK NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24TH. FRYDENLUND SAID THERE CONTINUED TO BE CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS IN CABINET AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION AND FEAR OF REAWAKENING DIVISIVE ISSUES OF DEBATE ON NORWEGIAN MEMBERSHIP IN EEC. HE WAS ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, BY EARLY INDICATION THAT CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY AS WELL AS CONSERVATIVES WILL SUPPORT NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN IEP. SUPPORT OF THESE TWO PARTIES MEANS THAT LABOR PARTY OUGHT TO HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO PERMIT NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN IEP EVEN IF THERE ARE DEFECTIONS FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY. SINCE THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY OPPOSED NORWEGIAN EEC MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT OF THAT PARTY FOR IEP PARTICIPATION WOULD REMOVE DANGER OF AN ANTI-IEP COALITION SIMILAR TO COALITION WHICH OPPOSED EEC MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, SINCE INDICATION OF
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SUPPORT CAME FROM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PARTY

WHOM SOME LABOR PARTY FIGURES HAVE DESCRIBED AS CONSERVATIVE PARTY TROJAN HORSE IN CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY, SUPPORT OF PARTY IS NOT ASSURED. WE ARE, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDING BY SEPARATE CABLE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS SEE PARTY CHAIRMAN KORVALD WHEN KORVALD IS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO REVEAL THAT FORMIN HAS BRIEFED ME ON SENSITIVE INTERNAL CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS, IN TALKING WITH KORVALD OR OTHER FOREIGNERS.

2. GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY WISHES TO AVOID HAVING TO TAKE A STAND ON IEP PARTICIPATION AND A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH OPPONENTS OF IT UNTIL THE FINAL NATURE OF NORWAY'S COMMITMENTS UNDER THE IEP ARE CLEAR AND UNTIL FRYDENLUND IS ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THE ROLE OF THE IEP IN OVERALL WESTERN STRATEGY. THE EMBASSY ALSO NOTES FROM THE USIS WIRELESS FILE OF SEPTEMBER 17 THAT THERE MAY BE AN INFORMAL GATHERING LATER THIS MONTH IN WASHINGTON OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND FINANCE MINISTERS OF THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND BELIEVES THAT NORWEGIANS MAY ALSO WISH TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THIS MEETING BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP.

3. I SHALL BE SEEING FRYDENLUND AFTER THE ECG MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND SHALL DISCUSS NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP WITH HIM THEN. FRYDENLUND PLANS TO LEAVE FOR THE UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 22.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SEND AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 20TH ON THE RESULTS OF THE ECG MEETING AND ON THE INFORMAL GATHERING OF FINANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH.
BYRNE

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